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Provisional summary record of the 42nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 20 July 2010, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Soborun (Vice-President) . . . . . (Mauritius)

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In the absence of Mr. Ali (Malaysia), Mr. Soborun (Mauritius), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

Elections and appointments

International Narcotics Control Board (E/2010/9/Add.15-Add.17)

1. **The President** noted that Argentina had withdrawn its candidature for the International Narcotics Control Board, which would be reflected in forthcoming document E/2010/9/Add.18.

Commission on Population and Development

2. **The President** said that Portugal and the United States were resigning their seats on the Commission effective immediately. The Group of Western European and Other States had endorsed the candidature of the United States to replace Portugal, whose term of office had begun at the opening of the Commission's forty-fourth session in 2010 and would expire at the close of the Commission's forty-seventh session in 2014, and the candidature of Portugal to replace the United States, whose term of office would start at the opening of the Commission's forty-fifth session in 2011 and would expire at the end of the Commission's forty-eighth session in 2015. He took it that the Council wished to elect the United States and Portugal to the aforementioned terms of office.

3. *It was so decided.*

Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

4. **The President** said that he had been advised that the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States had endorsed Chile and Grenada to fill the remaining two seats allocated to the Group. He took it that the Council wished to elect those two countries by acclamation for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2011.

5. *It was so decided.*

6. **The President** said that, in the absence of other candidates for election to the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, he took it that the Council wished to further postpone the election of three candidates from the Group of Western European and Other States group for the same term of office.

7. *It was so decided.*

8. **The President** reminded the Council that there were four outstanding vacancies on the Governing Council from the Group of Western European and Other States, two terms of office expiring on 31 December 2011 and two terms of office expiring on 31 December 2012. Thus far, no nominees had been proposed to fill those seats.

Committee for Development Policy (E/2010/9/Add.14)

9. **The President** said that a vacancy had arisen in the Committee following the resignation of Mr. Vladimir Popov of the Russian Federation. As outlined in document E/2010/9/Add.14 and pursuant to Council resolutions 1998/46 and 47, the Secretary-General had nominated Mr. Victor Polterovich of the Russian Federation to fill the vacancy. He took it that the Council wished to appoint Mr. Polterovich for a term of office beginning immediately and expiring on 31 December 2012.

10. *It was so decided.*

Regional cooperation (*continued*)

Action on recommendations contained in Chapter I of document E/2010/15/Add.1

Draft resolution entitled "Venue of the thirty-fourth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean"

11. **The President** invited Council members to consider the draft resolution submitted by the Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean contained in Chapter I, Section A, of the document.

12. *The draft resolution was adopted.*

Draft resolution entitled "Upgrading the Section for Emerging and Conflict-related Issues to the level of a division and establishing a governmental committee on emerging issues and development in conflict settings"

Draft resolution entitled "Upgrading the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Centre for Women to the level of a division and follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the Arab countries after fifteen years: Beijing+15"

Draft resolution entitled "Establishment of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Technology Centre"

13. **The President** said that Section B of Chapter I contained three draft resolutions submitted by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

14. **Ms. Pliner** (Deputy Secretary of the Council) read out a statement prepared by the Programme Planning and Budget Division on the programme budget implications of the three draft resolutions in Section B of Chapter I of the document, which stated that the implementation of the draft resolution entitled "Upgrading the Section for Emerging and Conflict-related Issues to the level of a division and establishing a governmental committee on emerging issues and development in conflict settings" and the draft resolution entitled "Upgrading the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Centre for Women to the level of a division and follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the Arab countries after fifteen years: Beijing+15" would entail no programme budget implications for the current biennium, although in both cases, the programme budget implications for the next biennium would have to be reviewed.

15. The draft resolution entitled "Establishment of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Technology Centre" would have no programme budget implications.

16. **The President** invited members to consider the first draft resolution entitled "Upgrading the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Section for Emerging and Conflict-related Issues to the level of a division and establishing a governmental committee on emerging issues and development in conflict settings".

17. **Mr. Morrill** (Canada), supported by **Mr. de Bassompierre** (Belgium) and **Mr. Windsor** (Australia), said that the draft resolution contained some language that was rather political despite the technical nature of the text. He requested that action on the draft resolution be deferred until his delegation and other concerned delegations had had time to discuss the matter.

18. **The President** said that, in the interest of adoption by consensus, consideration of the draft resolution would be deferred pending consultations by interested delegations.

19. *It was so decided.*

20. **The President** invited Council members to consider the second draft resolution entitled "Upgrading the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Centre for Women to the level of a division and follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the Arab countries after fifteen years".

21. **Mr. Morrill** (Canada), supported by **Mr. de Bassompierre** (Belgium) and **Mr. Windsor** (Australia), said that the same concerns applied to the second draft resolution as well and requested more time to consult with other interested delegations.

22. **The President** said that, in the interest of adoption by consensus, consideration of the draft resolution would be deferred pending consultations by interested delegations.

23. *It was so decided.*

24. **The President** invited Council members to consider the third draft resolution entitled "Establishment of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Technology Centre".

25. *The draft resolution was adopted.*

Coordination, programme and other questions (*continued*)

(e) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (E/2010/57)

Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(k) Women and development (E/2010/27)

Social and human rights questions (*continued*)

(a) Advancement of women (E/2010/27, E/2010/74)

26. **Ms. Mayanja** (Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women) said that the year 2010 had seen a renewed commitment both at the

United Nations and worldwide to gender equality and the empowerment of women. The review in March 2010 by the Commission on the Status of Women of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and its contribution to shaping a gender perspective towards the full realization of the Millennium Development Goals had emphasized that the Beijing Platform was the most comprehensive global policy framework for the full realization of gender equality, women's human rights and the empowerment of women and girls. Although important progress had been made in some areas, most significantly in global, regional and national policy development and in increased access for women and girls to education at all levels, disparities remained between regions and within countries across all 12 critical areas of concern of the Platform. The report of the Secretary-General contained in document E/2010/4-E/CN.6/2010/2 had emphasized that, with the 2015 target date for the Millennium Development Goals fast approaching, stronger action was needed to give enhanced visibility to the gender dimensions of all the Goals. The Declaration on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women called upon Member States to recommit to accelerating the implementation of the Platform.

27. The new United Nations entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women, to be known as UN Women, established under General Assembly resolution 64/289, provided the Organization with a comprehensive mandate to address those imperatives and ensure that they were incorporated in the entire intergovernmental process and in country programmes, while ensuring the critical linkage between lessons learned and experience gained from the normative and operational aspects of the work of the entity.

28. In its agreed conclusions 1997/2, the Economic and Social Council had defined gender mainstreaming as a process with the ultimate goal of achieving gender equality. Since 1997, the United Nations system had been grappling with how to implement the strategy. The establishment of UN Women provided an opportunity to strengthen the process in order to ensure concrete outcomes, especially at the country level, and to harmonize the gender mainstreaming efforts already undertaken by the United Nations system, while simultaneously providing room for area-specific approaches to develop. The Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality and its task forces had played a key role in ensuring effective gender mainstreaming in many critical areas.

29. Despite the progress achieved, remaining challenges must be addressed quickly in order to facilitate the further implementation of gender mainstreaming by the new entity. There was no common understanding of the meaning of the term, and there was widespread confusion as to how to link the process outlined in the Council's agreed conclusions 1997/2 to outcomes.

30. Achieving gender equality required clear political will at the level of implementation; adequate resources; engagement of women and men alike in a participatory manner; accountability at all levels; and tools with which to measure gender equality.

31. Mandatory training within the United Nations system was required in order to bring about a common understanding of and approach to gender mainstreaming. Training modules were being developed to that end, and additional financial commitment from United Nations entities would be needed to complete them.

32. Without a common understanding of gender mainstreaming, efforts to promote it could be haphazard and uncoordinated. A common understanding would also pave the way for identifying and sharpening tools for measuring progress. Accordingly, agreement on those issues must be one of the first preoccupations of UN Women.

33. **Mr. Nihon** (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Norway, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, noted the recently celebrated anniversaries of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Millennium Declaration and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. The European Union considered, furthermore, that the ministerial declaration adopted during the Council's high-level segment provided an excellent basis for the debate leading to the High-level Plenary

Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals to be held in September.

34. The European Union welcomed the establishment of UN Women, the new United Nations composite entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women, which would close the current gap between the normative and operational work of the United Nations in that area and promote effective system-wide gender mainstreaming in the United Nations system. The new body would help the United Nations to meet the urgent and ever-increasing requests by Governments for support in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and would strengthen progress on the ground.

35. With regard to gender mainstreaming and the resolution currently under negotiation in the Council, he noted that gender mainstreaming was more than just adding the word "women" to all texts but required taking into account the different needs of women and men, girls and boys, and seriously making use of tools such as sex-disaggregated data collection, gender-responsive budgeting and gender markers. The European Union therefore supported a consultation with and within the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality. The draft resolution should also include a reference to the vital role played by national institutions, as capacity-building and funding of those national institutions was crucial to ensure effective national policy-making on gender equality. The contribution of civil society, especially women's organizations, was also essential.

36. On 5 March, the European Union had reaffirmed its commitment to the advancement of women by adopting the Women's Charter. The five areas of this Charter, namely equal economic independence; equal pay for equal work and work of equal value; equality in decision-making; dignity, integrity and an end to gender-based violence; and the promotion of gender equality in external relations, would be translated into a new strategy for gender equality between women and men.

37. Regarding its external action, the European Union had recently adopted a Plan of Action on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development 2010-2015 as part of its strategy to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The overarching objective of the Action Plan was to accelerate the achievement of the MDGs, especially Goals 3 and 5, as well as to attain the goals set out by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. Addressing gender inequality and the disempowerment of women was central to making progress on all of the MDGs.

38. As the financial and economic crisis had led to persistent stress on livelihoods of women and their families, appropriate social protection mechanisms must be strengthened in national health and social security systems, and efforts to combat gender-based violence must be scaled up. Women's equal participation at all levels of decision-making and public and professional life was not only a matter of human rights, but could greatly contribute to strengthening families' and communities' resilience and reversing the current economic crisis. Educating girls and women and promoting women's access to full employment, decent work and working conditions, as well as their access to credit and resources, had a positive multiplier effect on the entire economy. Women's unpaid work, including care work, must be recognized.

39. Maternal and child health issues were complex and ranged from the threat of HIV/AIDS to gender-based violence and a lack of access to primary and reproductive health care, skilled health workers for safe delivery and the management of complications during pregnancy and childbirth. There was a need for action on many fronts, including redirection of government funds and priorities. The European Union welcomed efforts by the Secretary-General to develop a joint action plan for women's and children's health, which would assist in achieving the MDGs.

40. **Mr. Mohammed** (Iraq) said that after centuries of marginalization, the energies of the half of the population that was female were finally being used in the service of development. His country had embraced the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the Millennium Development Goals. Its Constitution provided for gender equality, and its Government had established a strong institutional framework to implement the national strategy developed by the National Committee for the Advancement of Iraqi Women. Its 2006

Nationality Law had prohibited discrimination on the basis of gender in the acquisition of citizenship.

41. The proportion of female representatives in the Iraqi Parliament slightly exceeded the 25 per cent required by law, and two Parliamentary oversight committees were chaired by women. There were five women Cabinet ministers, and women were represented in the courts, the police, the army and the diplomatic corps. Women were also prominent in non-governmental organizations. The social insurance system made allowance for women's special needs, and there was a special police division to handle violence against women. Microcredit was available to help women improve their economic situations, and women in Government jobs were evaluated and promoted solely on the basis of merit. His country would continue to implement policies that promoted the advancement of women in accordance with international standards.

42. **Ms. Velichko** (Observer for Belarus) said that the achievement of equality between men and women was one of the key principles underpinning development. Her Government had undertaken specific obligations in that regard. There were 36 women's organizations operating in Belarus, and women accounted for 19 per cent of leaders of State agencies, 46 per cent of judges and 51 per cent of academics. An increasing number of women were involved in decision-making, and 30 per cent of members of Parliament were women.

43. A national machinery had been set up to coordinate the activities of all entities dealing with gender issues and to ensure the implementation of national policy for gender equality and the advancement of women. One of the outcomes of its work was the preparation of a number of national action plans aimed at promoting equality and improving the status of women through a variety of measures.

44. Her Government was in the process of updating national legislation in order to bring it into line with international legal norms. Belarus was a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and had submitted its seventh periodic report on implementation of the Convention in preparation for its dialogue with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in January 2011.

45. **Ms. Phipps** (United States of America) said that her delegation welcomed the formation of UN Women, the new United Nations gender entity, and looked forward to increased efficiency and coordination in the various areas of work on women's issues. She hoped that the programme of work of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women would be adjusted so as to allow time for an address by the head of the new entity and to allow a meeting of the entity's Executive Board to be scheduled during the session so that Commission members could participate as observers.

46. A key task of the new entity would be to hold all parts of the United Nations system accountable for gender mainstreaming. Her delegation was working with others on a strong Council resolution that would lay the groundwork for greater progress in that area. It also looked forward to the appointment of a dynamic and skilled leader for UN Women and would support efforts to ensure that the new entity was effective and cohesive.

47. **Ms. Taracena Secaira** (Guatemala) reiterated her Government's commitment to improving the status of women, reducing remaining gender gaps and promoting the participation of women — particularly indigenous women — in public life and elective office, in both urban and rural areas. Institutions such as the Office for the Defence of Women's Rights, the Office for the Defence of Indigenous Women's Rights, the Presidential Secretariat for Women and the National Coordinating Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women would continue to be strengthened.

48. Furthermore, in striving to meet agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, her Government would continue to develop plans, programmes and projects aimed at facilitating the eradication of poverty and extreme poverty and promoting education, health and the right to a life free of violence. Programmes would focus more on areas inhabited predominantly by indigenous peoples and would engage women in particular as agents of change.

49. Her delegation was pleased at the Council's decision to address current global and national trends and challenges and their impact on gender equality and empowerment of women in its thematic discussion, given how much remained to be accomplished in order

to reach agreed targets. It also welcomed the decision to establish a single entity, UN Women, to manage the institutional framework for United Nations activities for women.

50. In conclusion, her delegation urged United Nations bodies whose activities affected vulnerable groups such as women, children, indigenous peoples, people living with disabilities and migrants to continue to include them in their programmes of work.

51. **Ms. Kavun** (Ukraine) said that the participation of women in Government and civic affairs was essential to the political and socio-economic stability of countries and to decision-making with respect to the promotion of peace and security.

52. Ukraine had made substantial progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the objectives established in the outcome documents of both the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. National action plans and legal regulations based on those documents and on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol had been adopted and implemented.

53. Her Government would make every effort to address the recommendations and concerns conveyed in the concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women concerning Ukraine's combined sixth and seventh periodic report to the Committee. It had taken into account the recommendations of the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the report of the Executive Board of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its seventh session and the Note by the Secretariat transmitting the outcomes of the sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in 2009 and 2010.

54. The Constitution of Ukraine proclaimed the equality of rights and opportunities of women and men in all spheres of life, a principle that was also embodied in national legislation. The Government's main priorities in support of women were to increase gender awareness, overcome gender stereotypes, establish a rapid-response mechanism to meet needs of persons in difficult circumstances resulting from gender-based domestic violence or discrimination, improve the system for compiling national statistics on gender discrimination, create equal opportunities for men and women in the workplace and ensure gender mainstreaming in the Ministry of Defence. Two important documents designed to further the cause of equal rights for women would soon be submitted for adoption by the Government.

55. In conclusion, she reiterated her country's commitment to the full and effective implementation of the goals set out in the global gender agenda.

56. **Mr. Rakovskiy** (Russian Federation) said that the decisions of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly provided important guidance with regard to the promotion of gender equality at the national and international levels. The Commission on the Status of Women also had a crucial role to play in that regard.

57. His delegation welcomed the General Assembly's recent decision to establish a new "hybrid" gender entity that would increase the effectiveness of the Organization's efforts to improve the status of women while maintaining accountability to Member States. Cooperation between the Commission on the Status of Women and the Executive Board of UN Women would boost the new entity's activities.

58. In the Russian Federation, the gender perspective was taken into account fully in the various programmes and decisions that affected the status of women. A few days previously, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had considered the Russian Federation's combined sixth and seventh periodic reports on its implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Committee's concluding observations and recommendations would be analysed with a view to their implementation.

59. Current efforts to improve the status of women were focused on mitigating the impact of the global financial and economic crisis. Financial independence for women was a crucial component of genuine gender equality. His Government fully supported the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization (ILO), which highlighted the importance of women's economic empowerment in overcoming the crisis and ensuring decent work for all. Particularly important was the creation of conditions that would allow women to achieve an optimal work-life balance.

60. In the Russian Federation, women made up half of the workforce and represented a significant proportion of entrepreneurs, particularly in small and medium-sized businesses. In addition, more than 40 per cent of managers were women. His Government also supported ILO efforts to help women start their own businesses, which would not only improve the situation of women and their families but would also facilitate job creation.

61. **Ms. Hwang** Hyuni (Republic of Korea) said that her delegation would fully cooperate in the establishment and operation of the new United Nations entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women, UN Women, and urged the prompt appointment of a qualified Under-Secretary-General for the entity. UN Women must adequately prioritize and streamline current initiatives and programmes in collaboration with the Economic and Social Council.

62. Although the Republic of Korea welcomed the progress made in gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system, it agreed that it was necessary to define the concept more clearly and identify an assessment mechanism acceptable to diverse Governments, entities and individuals. UN Women had a major role to play in that regard.

63. In conclusion, she endorsed the calls for accelerated efforts to fully implement internationally agreed goals and commitments and reaffirmed her delegation's unwavering support for United Nations initiatives in the areas of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

64. **Ms. Sapag** (Chile) said that her delegation had greatly appreciated the presence of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women at the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held recently in Brasilia. The Conference had adopted the Brasilia Consensus, which set out specific goals relating to the advancement of women, and a resolution welcoming the creation of the new United Nations gender entity.

Recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-fourth session (E/2010/27)

Draft decision entitled "Declaration on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women"

65. **The President** drew attention to chapter I, section A, of the report, which contained a draft decision entitled "Declaration on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women".

66. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Draft resolution entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women"

67. **The President** drew attention to chapter I, section B, of the report, which contained a draft resolution entitled "Situation of assistance to Palestinian women". The draft resolution had been adopted by the Commission by a recorded vote of 31 to 2, with 9 abstentions.

68. **Ms. Phipps** (United States of America) said that, as the draft resolution had been adopted by a recorded vote in the Commission, her delegation wished to request a recorded vote at the current meeting.

69. **The President** asked if any delegation wished to make a general statement.

70. **Ms. Davidovich** (Observer for Israel) said her delegation was dismayed that the Council was being forced to consider the draft resolution, an annual politically motivated initiative which, by focusing on only one group of women, ignored the needs of countless others who did not have powerful political blocs to lobby on their behalf. Moreover, it was misleading and one-sided, as it ignored a number of challenges that Palestinian women faced, such as the imposition by Hamas of restrictions on women's freedoms. It also failed to note that Palestinian women had widely benefited from economic growth and from the fact that Israel allowed all goods that were not weapons or other war materiel into the Gaza Strip.

71. The draft resolution scapegoated Israel instead of addressing the situation on the ground, thus diminishing the Council's credibility and reinforcing the sad reality that certain countries cared about the plight of women only if it could be used as a political weapon. Her Government continued to call for direct negotiations with the Palestinians in pursuit of a solution that would involve two States living side-by-side in peace and security, so as to improve the

condition of Israeli and Palestinian women alike. She called on all countries to vote against the draft resolution.

72. **Mr. Zeidan** (Observer for Palestine) said that the Council, in its yearly resolution on the situation of Palestinian women, had consistently highlighted the repression, humiliation and lack of development suffered by Palestinian women under foreign Israeli occupation, which was now in its forty-third year. It also reaffirmed the rights of all women living under such occupation. Palestinian women were in a special situation in that their rights were violated every day by a State Member of the United Nations. Since the text of the draft resolution had been agreed upon by the Group of 77 and China, he urged all delegations to vote in favour of it.

73. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, China, Congo, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Iraq, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Uruguay, Zambia.

Against:

Australia, Canada, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Belgium, Côte d'Ivoire, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Malta, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Slovakia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

74. *The draft resolution was adopted by 24 votes to 3, with 15 abstentions.*

75. **Mr. Windsor** (Australia) said that his Government had consistently expressed its deep concern at the humanitarian situation in the Palestinian territories, including with regard to women. However, it had decided to oppose the draft resolution because it introduced political issues into the Council unnecessarily, did not reflect the responsibilities of all parties to address the situation and did not contribute constructively to the goal of a negotiated solution to the conflict or to improving the situation on the ground.

76. His Government had made clear its strong support for efforts to achieve a comprehensive and enduring peace based on a two-State solution. It welcomed the proximity talks mediated by the United States of America and urged the parties to use them as a step towards direct negotiations and to refrain from any action that undermined trust. All countries had a responsibility to support those efforts.

77. In support of the peace process, Australia was contributing to the development of Palestinian institutions and had also provided humanitarian assistance, including to women, worth more than $125 million since 2007. Those contributions were being used to build the capacity of schools and health clinics, assist the Palestinian Authority with recovery and reconstruction efforts, and build the institutions necessary for Palestinian statehood.

Draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-fourth session and provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission"

78. **The President** drew attention to Chapter I, Section C, of the report, which contained a draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-fourth session and provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission".

79. **Mr. Rodríguez** (Peru), referring to the Commission's resolution 54/2 entitled "Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS" and resolution 54/5 entitled "Eliminating maternal mortality and morbidity through the empowerment of women", said that his Government would take account of their provisions insofar as they were compatible with the Peruvian Constitution and Peru's international obligations under the human rights treaties to which it was a party. In that context, and given that abortion was an offence under the Peruvian Penal Code, his Government believed that the best way of avoiding unwanted pregnancies was to encourage responsible behaviour through education on sexual and reproductive health.

80. **Ms. Sapag** (Chile) said that the Political Constitution of Chile protected the life of the unborn child. Her delegation therefore wished to reiterate the reservations it had expressed at the Commission's fifty-fourth session before the adoption of resolutions 54/2 and 54/5, the content of which it accepted only on the understanding that they did not endorse abortion and to

the extent that they were compatible with Chile's national laws and regulations.

81. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Draft resolution entitled "Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women" (E/2010/L.21)

82. **The President** drew attention to the draft resolution contained in E/2010/L.21, entitled "Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women", submitted by the President of the Council, Mr. Hamidon Ali (Malaysia), on the basis of informal consultations. He had been advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications. He suggested the addition of a fourth preambular paragraph, to read as follows: "*Expressing* its deep gratitude for the support offered by the host country during all the years of operation of the Institute".

83. *Draft resolution E/2010/L.21, as orally revised, was adopted.*

84. **Mr. Montilla** (Dominican Republic) said that the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), which was to be dissolved pursuant to the resolution just adopted, had served as a tool for the advancement of women around the world, particularly in developing countries, since its establishment in 1976. The Dominican Republic, which had a long tradition of fighting for gender equality and women's rights, had been the Institute's host country since 1983. His delegation was confident that the incorporation of the functions of INSTRAW into the mandate of the new gender entity would result in more effective training and research work, supported by predictable and generous resources and an adequate number of qualified staff. The Dominican Republic would also continue to carry out training and research, taking advantage of its experience, facilities, geographical location and low operating costs. With the dissolution of INSTRAW, a chapter in the history of the struggle for women's advancement was closing; however, with the establishment of UN Women, a new one was opening.

85. **Ms. Sapag** (Chile) expressed appreciation to the Dominican Republic for having contributed to the advancement of women by hosting the headquarters of INSTRAW from 1983. Following the recommendation of the first World Conference on Women, held in Mexico in 1975, that such an institute should be established, the Council had recommended that it should be located in a developing country. Thanks to the generosity of the Government of the Dominican Republic, INSTRAW had served the interests of women in the developing world, in particular Latin America and the Caribbean, by carrying out studies and training on a variety of subjects such as migrant women, indigenous women, financing for development and the political participation of women.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.